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LETTER DATED 23 MARCH 1994 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

In accordance with instructions I have received, I would request you to circulate the statements issued by the Press Service of the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan on 22 and 23 March 1994 as a document of the Security Council (see annexes I and II).

(Signed) Yashar T. ALIYEV
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex I

Statement issued by the Press Service of the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan on 22 March 1994

On 21 March 1994, throughout the day, Armenian formations attempted to break through to the village of Goradiz, which is on the Azerbaijani-Iranian frontier in the south-west of the Azerbaijani Republic. Having taken the necessary measures in good time, units of the National Army stopped the opposing formations and forced them back to the positions from which they had started. Two of the enemy's vehicles and their personnel were destroyed by artillery as they were preparing to join battle. Today, 22 March 1994, starting at 0800 hours, the enemy once again launched an attack from the vicinity of the formerly occupied settlement of Garakhanbeily in the direction of the village of Alkhanly (Fizuli district). According to preliminary reports, the enemy is using a large number of armoured vehicles in the attack. At about 1030 hours, a bloody battle was being waged in this sector of the front.

Yesterday, from afternoon until late at night, there was intensive shelling from Grad rocket launchers and artillery positions in the direction of Agdam and Terter.

Annex II

Statement issued by the Press Service of the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan on 23 March 1994

Yesterday, 22 March 1994, starting at 0800 hours, Armenian military formations, consisting of six tanks, three BMP armoured vehicles and up to one infantry battalion, launched an offensive from the vicinity of the formerly occupied settlement of Garakhanbeily in the direction of the village of Alkhanli (Fizuli district). During the afternoon, units of the Azerbaijani Army destroyed two armoured vehicles and about a dozen enemy soldiers and forced the enemy formations to withdraw to the positions from which they had started. On our side, there were a few wounded.

In the early hours of 23 March 1994, settlements in the frontier area of the Tovuz district of Azerbaijan were shelled by various types of weapons from the vicinity of military bases in the Beras district of Armenia. In the Agdam and Terter sectors of the front a positional battle was being waged with rifle fire.